MARINE INFORMATION

NIMA TRANSITIONS TO DIGITAL NAUTICAL PUBLICATIONS

The National Imagery and Mapping Agency will soon begin the transition from producing and distributing hardcopy nautical publications to digital format on CD-ROM and/or electronic access through the World Wide Web (WWW). Beginning October 2002, NIMA will implement a phased approach to the preferred method of producing nautical safety data in digital format. Over the next three years (2002-2005), nautical publications produced by NIMA will be announced as new editions in digital form only. These datasets will be more robust, expansive and customer friendly than current printed versions. Customers can expect to have access to data links between publication datasets, video streams, links to other websites, timely up-to-date information and current state of the art graphics, photos and commercial satellite imagery.

Digital nautical publications will be updated using a binary executable called "Publication Data Update (PDU)". PDU updates will be hosted on the Maritime Safety Information Division Navigation Homepage (http://pollux.nss.nima.mil). Customers can download PDU updates for any nautical publication at their leisure. All PDU updates will be cumulative ensuring customers will not miss any changes. Complete instructions will be posted at http://pollux.nss.nima.mil prior to implementation of this updating process.

The NIMA points of contact for this effort are Mr. Randall White, (301)227-3180 and Mr. Adam Veracka, (301)227-3173.

NOAA CHART NEW EDITION DATING SCHEME

National Ocean Service (NOS) nautical charts have traditionally shown a date in the lower left corner of the chart. That date represented the date through which corrections had been made to the new edition of the chart from the Notice to Mariners, published weekly by the National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA) and the Local Notice to Mariners issued periodically by each U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) district.

The weekly Notice to Mariners, published by NIMA, is available on the Internet, weeks before the issue date of that publication. This has resulted in a significant difference in the publication dates of the latest Notice to Mariners data and the latest Local Notice to Mariners data available when a new edition of a chart is prepared for printing.

Due to this difference, NOS has established a policy in which the edition date of a chart will consist of only the month and year of that chart's printing. Separate dates will be listed nearby, indicating the date of the latest NIMA weekly Notice to Mariners corrections and the date of the latest USCG Local Notice to Mariners corrections.

Chart users are reminded, that NOS print-on-demand charts are custom printed when ordered by authorized chart agents and include all of the latest Notice to Mariners and Local Notice to Mariners corrections issued since the last new edition was published. Print-on-demand charts also indicate separate dates for the latest Notice to Mariners and Local Notice to Mariners affecting that updated product.

NEW EDITION OF LIGHT LIST

USCG Light List Volume I, Atlantic Coast, St. Croix River, Maine to Shrewsbury River, New Jersey, 2002 Edition, is ready for issue. The order form for this publication can be located on the following pages.

NEW EDITION OF LIGHT LIST

USCG Light List Volume IV, Gulf of Mexico, Econfina River, Florida to Rio Grande, Texas, 2002 Edition, is ready for issue. The order form for this publication can be located on the following pages.

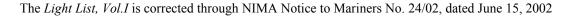
The U.S. Coast Guard Light List, Volume I, 2002 Edition

Your Regional *Light List* features a comprehensive, up-to-date, easy to follow listing of:

- lights, buoys, sound signals
- daybeacons, RACONS, DGPS broadcast sites
- and other aids to navigation maintained by or under the authority of the U.S. Coast Guard
- illustrations of the U.S. Aids to Navigation System
- Geographic Range table, a Luminous Range diagram, and a glossary of aids to navigation terms.

A requirement for many vessels transiting U.S. coastal or inland lakes and rivers, *Light Lists* are an important safety aid when used with nautical charts and Coast Pilots.





In the interval between new editions, corrective information affecting this publication will be published in the National Imagery and Mapping Agency Notice to Mariners, and must be applied to keep this publication current.

This *Light List* may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, by completing the attached order form and mailing with proper remittance.

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